Democratic People's Republic of Korea reading guide

Socialism in the 21st Century

New Facebook discussion group for Marxism, Socialism, Communism and related topics!

This document exists as a guide to help people learn more about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This document will be updated with new information as time goes on.

September/October 2018 - added articles to the Korean war section, the Economy section, the Propaganda War section. Check them out!

Prepared by Comrade J - message me at my page with feedback, content or articles to be included, constructive criticism etc.

Must read book for understanding Korea! - Patriots, Traitors and Empires: The Story of Korea's Struggle for Freedom by Stephen Gowans. Please buy his book from Baraka Books and support his work (libgen link available if you cannot afford to do so)

Baraka Books link
LibGen.io link (free)

My 130+ page Anti-Communist Myths Debunked doc
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gxwhh-vdeB--47HM-20cEVRC9eAMhrapbNf0Sk8VSOs/edit?usp=sharing

Understanding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- The Korean War
- Aggression towards the People's Republic and building the case for war
- DPR Korea wants peace
- History of the DPRK
- The nuclear weapons program
- General
- Writings of Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-Il, Kim Jong-Un

DPRK international relations etc.
- General
- RoK-DPRK-China-Russia relations (including peace process news)

The Propaganda War
- Human Rights
- Debunking the dominant narrative
- Assorted Anti-DPRK propaganda
- Eyewitness accounts and travel logs
- Life inside Korea
- Defectors
- The food situation in DPRK

The Food Situation In North Korea (and other dprk myths)

The Economy
- Sanctions
- Is the DPRK on the verge of collapse?

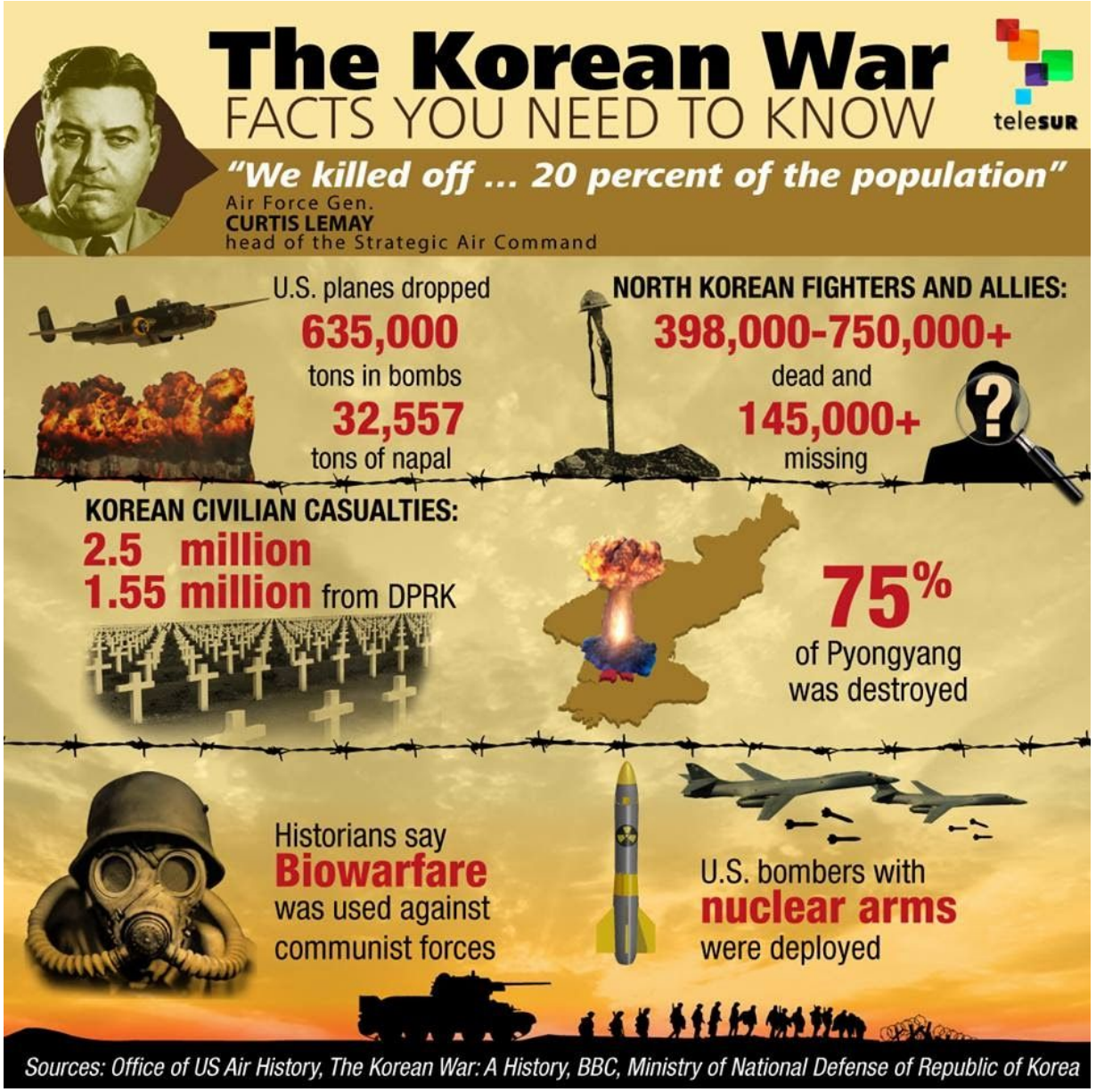
DPRK Society
- Korean democracy
- DPRK healthcare, education etc.
- Juche
- Is DPR Korea socialist?
- What is life like in South Korea?

Recommended books

DPRK related films

Understanding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Korean War



- Ian Goodrum: a long thread on Imperialism in the Korean Peninsula (must read)

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1002586372874461184.html

- Why they hate us

https://jacobinmag.com/2017/11/korean-war-united-states-nuclear-weapons

- The invasion of North Korea: an extract from *Churchill and the Bomb* by Ernie Trory.

http://www.newworker.org/ncptrory/nkorea.htm

- How South Korea started the Korean War

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX2r-m4qLZA&t=1s

- South Korea started the Korean war with US and UK help - British Foreign Policy since 1870, by Will Podmore

Google books link to section on Korean War

- The Origins of the Korean War: an interpretation from the Soviet archives - Evgueni Bajanov

http://www.alternativeinsight.com/Korean_War.html

- What war with North Korea looked like in the 1950s and why it matters now

http://www.newsweek.com/us-forget-korean-war-led-crisis-north-592630

- Americans have forgotten what we did to North Korea - Vox

https://www.vox.com/2015/8/3/9089913/north-korea-us-war-crime

- Crimes, Concealment and South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

https://web.archive.org/web/20081007071649/http://www.japanfocus.org/_____Khiem___Kim_Sung_soo-Crimes__Concealment_and_South_Korea___s_Truth_and_Reconciliation_Commission

- People's Armies: how small states under threat manage to maintain large military forces

https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryWatch.Analysis/posts/1847834395536589

- National liberation and the DPRK

http://writetorebel.com/2017/03/29/national-liberation-and-the-dprk/

- Review of book detailing US germ warfare in Korea

https://shadowproof.com/2015/03/30/book-review-this-must-be-the-place-how-the-u-s-waged-germ-warfare-in-korean-war-denied-it-ever-since/

- A lost document from the Cold War: the International Scientific Commission report on bacterial warfare during the Korean War

https://shadowproof.com/2015/01/25/a-lost-document-from-the-cold-war-the-international-scientific-commission-report-on-bacterial-warfare-during-the-korean-war/

- CIA document suggests US lied about biological, chemical weapons use in the Korean War

https://shadowproof.com/2013/12/10/cia-document-suggests-u-s-lied-about-biological-chemical-weapon-use-in-the-korean-war/

- No Gun Ri massacre

https://www.facebook.com/telesurenglish/videos/1079553265521408/?hc_location=ufi

- Expert exposes US biological warfare during Korean War

https://www.telesurtv.net/english/opinion/Expert-Exposes-US-Biological-Warfare-During-Korean-War-20171005-0006.html

- Suppressed report on 1952 US Korean War Anthrax attack

https://valtinsblog.blogspot.co.uk/2017/04/revealed-suppressed-report-on-1952-us.html#.WelhWVWnGUk

- South Korea owns up to brutal past

http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/south-korea-owns-up-to-brutal-past/2008/11/14/1226318928410.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap1

- Truth Commission reveals history of Korean War: U.S.-South Korea carried out massacres of civillians

http://iacenter.org/korea/skorea070608/

- America's big lie about bioweapon crimes in Korea by Jeff. J Brown

https://soundcloud.com/44-days/americas-big-lie-about-bioweapon-crimes-in-korea-tom-powell-on-china-rising-radio-sinoland-170729

- Letters written by James Cannon, National Secretary of the Trotskyite organisation SWP to president Truman and the US congress

http://www.themilitant.com/2017/8117/811750.html

- Biological warfare in the Korean War: Allegations and Cover-up: Socialism and Democracy Vol 31, no. 1.

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08854300.2016.1265859

- Report of the International Scientific Commission For The Investigation of Facts Concerning Bacterial Warfare in Korea and China

https://cryptome.org/2015/01/isc-biowar-kr-cn.pdf

- The Bombing of North Korea - death toll

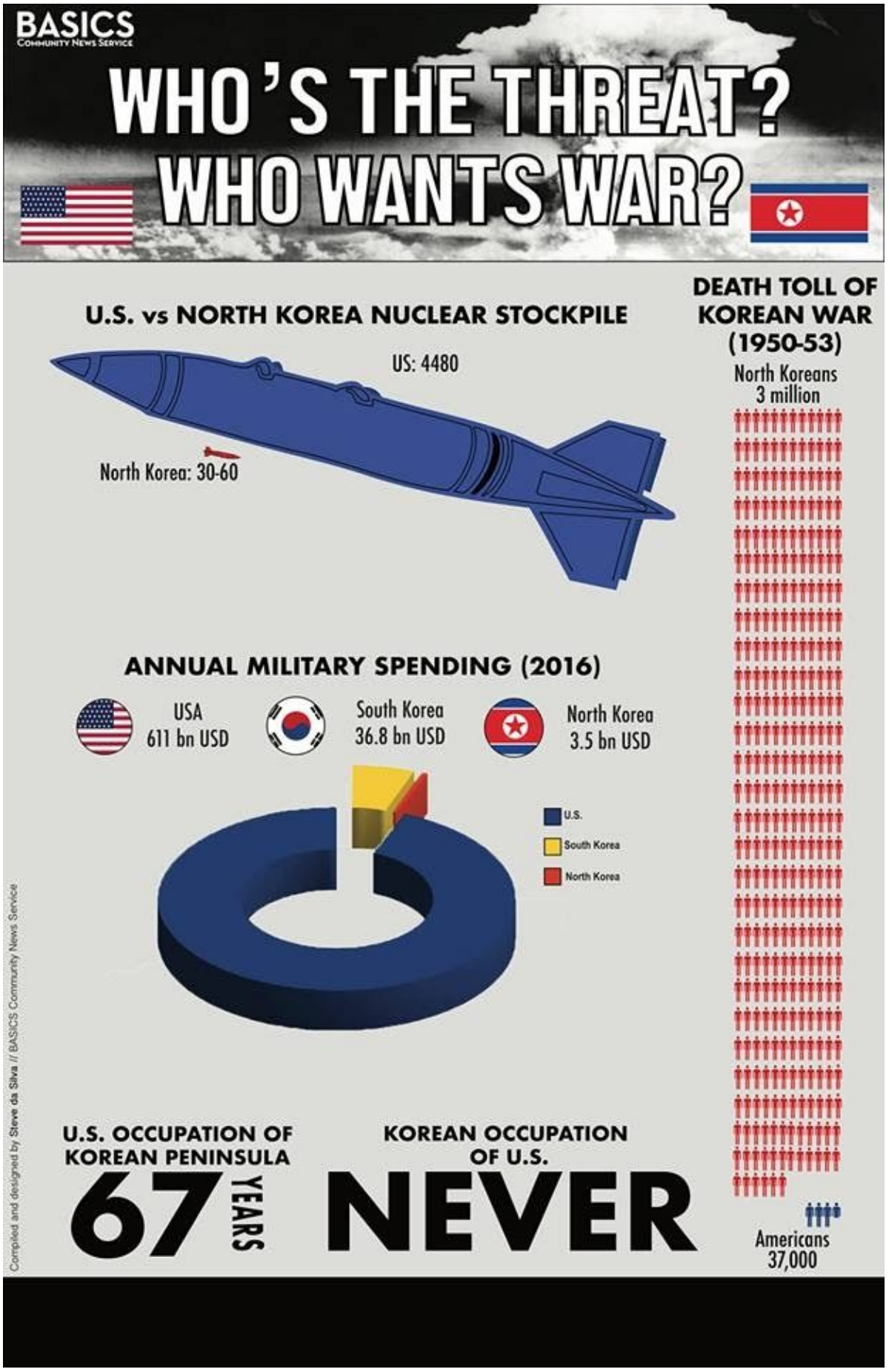
https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Bombing_of_North_Korea_1950-1953#Death_Toll

On 13 May 1953 twenty USAF F-84 fighter-bombers swooped down in three successive waves over Toksan irrigation dam in North Korea. From an altitude of 300 feet they skip-bombed their loads of high explosives into the hard-packed earthen walls of the dam. The subsequent flash flood scooped clean 27 miles of valley below, and the plunging flood waters wiped out large segments of a main north-south communication and supply route to the front lines. The Toksan strike and similar attacks on the Chasan, Kuwonga, Kusong, and Toksang dams accounted for five of the more than twenty irrigation dams targeted for possible attack—dams up-stream from all the important enemy supply routes and furnishing 75 percent of the controlled water supply for North Korea's rice production. These strikes, largely passed over by the press, the military observers, and news commentators in favor of attention-arresting but less meaningful operations events, constituted one of the most significant air operations of the Korean war. They sent the Communist military leaders and political commissars scurrying to their press and radio centers to blare to the world the most severe, hate-filled harangues to come from the Communist propaganda mill in the three years of warfare.

In striking one target system, the USAF had hit hard at two sensitive links in the enemy's armor—his capability to supply his front-line troops and his capability to produce food for his armies. To the U.N. Command the breaking of the irrigation dams meant disruption of the enemy's lines of communication and supply. But to the Communists the smashing of the dams meant primarily the destruction of their chief sustenance—rice. The Westerner can little conceive the awesome meaning

which the loss of this staple food commodity has for the Asian—starvation and slow death. "Rice famine," for centuries the chronic scourge of the Orient, is more feared than the deadliest plague. Hence the show of rage, the flare of violent tempers, and the avowed threats of reprisals when bombs fell on five irrigation dams.[58]

Aggression towards the People's Republic and building the case for war



- What the West's missile strike on Syria means for North Korea
http://militarywatchmagazine.com/read.php?my_data=70519
- US and North Korea: nuclear threat returns
http://www.revolutionarycommunist.org/americas/united-states/4985-uan021117
- Empire Files: War with North Korea - propaganda vs reality (excellent video)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDJlNQlRbIA
- Media complicity increases the possibility of a new Korean war
https://mronline.org/2017/12/05/media-complicity-increases-the-possibility-of-a-new-korean-war/
- Imperialism's drive to war in Korea
https://redyouth.org/2017/04/21/imperialisms-drive-to-war-in-korea/
- John McCain threatens North Korea with "extinction"
http://www.mintpressnews.com/john-mccain-threatens-north-korea-with-extinction/231943/
- What is the US military's presence near North Korea?
https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/aug/09/what-is-the-us-militarys-presence-in-south-east-asia
- Tillerson talks of pre-emptive strikes on NKorea citing weapons of mass destruction
http://www.mintpressnews.com/tillerson-talks-of-pre-emptive-stikes-on-nkorea-citing-weapons-of-mass-destruction/226009/
- U.S. aggression heightens tensions in Korea as Park government overthrown
https://www.liberationnews.org/u-s-aggression-heightens-tensions-in-korea-as-park-government-overthrown/
- North Korea threatens 'final doom' after US deploys strategic bombers
http://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-threatens-final-doom-after-us-deploys-strategic-bombers/227435/
- Prelude to war: defend People's Korea!
https://anti-imperialism.org/2017/04/14/crisis-on-the-peninsula-defend-peoples-korea/
- UN asserts link between North Korea and Syrian chemical weapons
http://www.mintpressnews.com/un-asserts-link-north-korea-syria-chemical-weapons-program/231262/
- When the piper pays you: following the dangerous tune of the South Korean regime
https://anti-imperialism.org/2015/09/02/when-the-piper-pays-you-following-the-dangerous-tune-of-the-south-korean-regime/
- Reviewing the evidence of DPRK culpability for the Cheonan Warship incident
https://www.globalresearch.ca/reviewing-the-evidence-of-dprk-culpability-for-the-cheonan-warship-incident/22133
- War crimes investigation of North Korea ludicrous beyond words
https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/12/07/war-crimes-investigation-of-north-korea-ludicrous-beyond-words/
- North Korea's "Hate America Month?"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mu3nasgUk6A
- Pentagon leads over 300,000 troops in a rehersal for an invasion one week after the white house announces its considering military action against North Korea
https://gowans.wordpress.com/2017/03/13/pentagon-leads-over-300000-troops-in-a-rehearsal-for-an-invasion-one-week-after-the-white-house-announces-its-considering-military-action-against-north-korea/
- Washington considers military action against North Korea to force regime change
https://gowans.wordpress.com/2017/03/07/washingtons-considers-military-action-against-north-korea-to-force-regime-change/
- Beating the drum for a 'good' nuclear war with North Korea
http://www.mintpressnews.com/beating-the-drum-for-a-good-nuclear-war-with-north-korea/231710/
- South Korea's plan to assassinate Kim Jong-Un
http://edition.cnn.com/2016/09/23/asia/south-korea-plan-to-assassinate-kim-jong-un/
- Colin Powell says U.S. should destroy North Korean regime if it uses Nuclear Weapons
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7g_8mxaLvQ
- US and North Korea: nuclear threat returns
http://revolutionarycommunist.org/americas/united-states/4985-uan021117
- Pentagon: only ground invasion can destroy North Korean nuclear program
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/05/pentagon-ground-invasion-north-korean-nuclear-program
- "Better a million dead Koreans" - Ex US army official
https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Better-a-Million-Dead-North-Koreans-Ex-US-Army-Official-20170905-0019.html

- S. Korea launches “Decapitation Unit” against Kim Jong Un’s government
https://www.rt.com/news/411802-south-korea-decapitation-unit/
- December 20th 2017 - Trump’s national security adviser just said the US is ready to take North Korea’s nukes by force
http://www.businessinsider.com/hr-mcmaster-us-trump-ready-to-take-north-korea-nuclear-weapons-by-force-2017-12
- Abby Martin discusses the DPRK (among other topics)
https://revolutionaryleftradio.libsyn.com/needs-title

DPR Korea wants peace

- North Korea calls on Trump to ‘scrap anachronistic hostile policy’
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/22/north-korea-calls-trump-scrap-anachronistic-hostile-policy/
- North Korea offers peace treaty, end of nuclear tests
http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jan/15/l-todd-wood-north-korea-offers-peace-treaty-end-nu/
- DPRK launches new-year peace offensive
http://www.cpgb-ml.org/index.php?secName=proletarian&subName=display&art=696
- N Korea proposes talks on peace treaty with US
https://www.nknews.org/2015/10/n-korea-proposes-talks-on-peace-treaty-with-u-s/
- N Korea reiterates need for peace treaty with US
https://www.nknews.org/2016/01/n-korea-reiterates-need-for-peace-treaty-with-u-s/
- Taking the long view - why South Korea’s peace movement refuses to give up
http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/41486-taking-the-long-view-why-south-korea-s-peace-movement-refuses-to-give-up
- North Korea foreign minister on what is needed for negotiations with US
https://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-foreign-minister-on-what-is-needed-for-negotiations-with-us/
- Mike Pompeo’s rant shows CIA more unreasonable than North Korea
https://www.mintpressnews.com/mike-pompeos-rant-shows-cia-more-unreasonable-than-north-korea/233602/
- Nobel Peace prize winner scorns North Korean peace offer
https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/01/12/nobel-peace-price-winner-scorns-north-korean-peace-offer/

History of the DPRK

- The destruction and reconstruction of North Korea 1950-1960 (excellent article)
https://apjjf.org/-Charles-K.-Armstrong/3460/article.html
- Understanding North Korea
https://gowans.wordpress.com/2007/03/03/understanding-north-korea/
- The real reason Washington is worried about North Korea’s ICBM test
https://gowans.wordpress.com/2017/07/05/the-real-reason-washington-is-worried-about-north-koreas-icbm-test/
- ‘The Interview’ in historical perspective: endless war against North Korea
https://www.liberationnews.org/the-interview-in-historical-perspective-the-endless-war-against-north-korea/
- Korea stands strong: Kim Jong-Il in context
http://www.fightbacknews.org/2011/12/21/korea-stands-strong-kim-jong-il-context
- Towards a concrete analysis of the DPRK
https://anti-imperialism.org/2013/11/18/towards-a-concrete-analysis-of-the-dprk/
- The origins of the DPRK - from division to reunification
https://stalinsmoustache.org/2015/06/30/the-origins-of-the-dprk-from-division-to-reunification/
- Let’s talk about Korea: the dangerous tone of US media
https://journal-neo.org/2016/05/03/let-s-talk-about-korea-the-dangerous-tone-of-us-media/

US-North Korea relations: experts weigh in on future course
https://www.globalresearch.ca/us-north-korea-relations-experts-weigh-in-on-future-course/5612102

- Diplomacy by Dereliction: U.S. policy towards Korea is in disarray (2002)

http://fpif.org/diplomacy_by_dereliction_us_policy_toward_korea_is_in_disarray/

- The Korean Peninsula: On balloons and leaflets

https://journal-neo.org/2014/11/16/rus-korejskij-poluostrov-o-vozdushny-h-sharikah-s-listovkami/

The nuclear weapons program

- Korea crisis: from 1994 to today - Liberation School

http://liberationschool.org/06-10-20-korea-crisis-from-1994-until-to-html/

- North Korea has nukes because they saw what the US did to Libya

https://medium.com/@caityjohnstone/gabbard-north-korea-has-nukes-because-they-saw-what-the-us-did-to-libya-12eb352591a1

- US-DPRK: The Second Phase of the Nuclear Crisis, or “Who Started What

https://journal-neo.org/2017/11/26/us-dprk-the-second-phase-of-the-nuclear-crisis-or-who-started-what/

- North Korea: “Sanity” at the brink - Michael Parenti

http://michaelparenti.org/NorthKorea.html

- Why North Korea needs nukes - and how to end that

http://www.moonofalabama.org/2017/04/the-reason-behind-north-koreas-nuclear-program-and-its-offer-to-end-it.html

- Why the Koreans are not ‘MAD’

http://www.workers.org/2017/09/05/why-the-koreans-are-not-mad/

- North Korea keeps saying it might give up its nuclear weapons - but most news outlets won’t tell you that

https://mronline.org/2017/08/28/north-korea-keeps-saying-it-might-give-up-its-nuclear-weapons-but-most-news-outlets-wont-tell-you-that/

- The people’s bomb: on North Korean nuclearization

https://anti-imperialism.org/2016/02/09/the-peoples-bomb-on-north-korean-nuclearization/

- North Korea missile test a response to U.S. provocations, not the other way around

https://www.liberationnews.org/north-korea-missile-test-a-response-to-u-s-provocations-not-the-other-way-around/

- This is what’s really behind North Korea’s nuclear provocations

http://worldbeyondwar.org/%EF%BB%BF-whats-really-behind-north-koreas-nuclear-provocations/

- Reality and hypocrisy: DPRK nuclear test condemned by nuclear powers

https://journal-neo.org/2016/01/19/reality-and-hypocrisy-dprk-nuclear-test-condemned-by-nuclear-powers/

- The courage to decide for peace: the threat of nuclear annihilation

https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-courage-to-decide-for-peace-the-threat-of-nuclear-annihilation/5612590

- North Korea won’t negotiate nuclear deal with ‘hostile’ US

https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/North-Korea-Wont-Negotiate-Nuclear-Deal-With-Hostile-US-20170822-0017.html

- Why North Korea needs nuclear weapons

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2013/02/16/why-north-korea-needs-nuclear-weapons/

- North Korea has learnt the brutal lessons of US regime change and will not disarm

https://www.rt.com/op-edge/399474-north-korea-nuclear-us/

- DPRK official explaining why it needs its nuclear weapons programme at the UN

https://www.facebook.com/DankDPRKMemes/videos/474956852876104/

- The new Hwasong-15 ICBM: a significant improvement that may be ready as early as 2018

http://www.38north.org/2017/11/melleman113017/

- China moving towards accepting Nuclear armed Korea

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/12/05/2017120501014.html

- USA-DPRK: Torpedoing the outcome of the 2005 Joint Statement

https://journal-neo.org/2017/12/11/usa-dprk-torpedoing-the-outcome-of-the-2005-joint-statement/

General

- An effort to understand the DPRK in light of the Marxist tradition (great article by Roland Boer)

https://stalinsmoustache.org/2018/10/16/an-effort-to-understand-the-dprk-north-korea-in-light-of-the-marxist-tradition/

- Interview with the DPRK Ambassdor to London, Yongho Thae, 2013 (Excellent)

http://www.lalkar.org/article/2382/interview-understanding-and-defending-north-korea

- Why do North Koreans hold such respect towards their leaders? Cuba as an example

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npkeecCErQc

- CrossTalk: North Korea Saga

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-gjDtQ8OeY

- North Korea is sitting on a stockpile of minerals worth trillions

http://uk.businessinsider.com/north-korea-stockpile-minerals-worth-trillions-2017-6?r=US&IR=T

- Largest known rare earth deposit discovered in North Korea

http://www.mining.com/largest-known-rare-earth-deposit-discovered-in-north-korea-86139/

- North Korea is a major opium producer, making it a prime target for the CIA

http://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-major-opium-producer-making-prime-target-cia/227573/

- DPRK Climate change agreement

http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Democratic%20People%27s%20Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/DPRK-INDC%20by%202030.pdf

- DPRK commentary on US decision to pull out of Paris Agreement

http://www.independent.co.uk/News/world/politics/north-korea-donald-trump-paris-agreement-latest-height-of-egotism-korean-central-news-agency-a7778341.html

- DPRK NDC's - a climate change window into the DPRK energy sector

https://nautilus.org/napsnet/napsnet-policy-forum/the-dprks-intended-nationally-determined-contribution-to-commitments-under-the-unfccc-a-climate-change-window-into-the-dprk-energy-sector/

- What the media won't tell you about North Korea (good video, though marred by a reference to the Rothschilds and crappy references to global governments etc. The writer doesn't really seem to understand U.S. imperialism and substitutes globalists for the U.S. bourgeoisie)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUxNktEGslk

- South Korea covered up mass murder of vagrants before 1988 olympics

https://nypost.com/2016/04/19/south-korea-covered-up-mass-murder-of-vagrants-before-1988-olympics/

Writings of Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-Il, Kim Jong-Un

- On the establishment of the Workers' Party of North Korea and the question of founding the Workers' Party of South Korea

https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1946/09/26.htm

- For the development of the Non-Aligned Movement

https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1986/06/20.htm

- For a free and peaceful new world

https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1986/06/20.htm

- On eliminating dogmatism and formalism and establishing Juche in ideological work

https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/1955/12/28.htm

- Kim Jong-Un aphorisms

https://www.scribd.com/document/355145202/Kim-Jong-Un-Aphorisms-1

- Kim Il-Sung internet archive

https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/index.htm

- DPRK E-library

http://www.korea-dpr.com/e_library.html

- Korean Friendship Association Official Book/Article library

https://www.kfausa.org/official-dprk-books-and-article-pdfs/

- Revolution and Socialist Construction in Korea - Selected Writings of Kim Il Sung (scanned book)

https://archive.org/details/RevolutionSocialistConstructionKorea

- For the Independent, Peaceful Reunification of Korea by Kim Il-Sung (scanned book)

https://archive.org/details/ForTheIndependentPeacefulReunificationOfKorea

DPRK international relations etc.

- DPRK Ambassador confirms his country's readiness to support health sector in Syria

https://sana.sy/en/?p=83530

- North Korea's African allies

https://thediplomat.com/2016/06/north-koreas-african-allies/

- North Korea pays tribute to anti-imperialist friend Fidel

https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/North-Korea-Pays-Tribute-to-Anti-Imperialist-Friend-Fidel-20161129-0024.html

- Cuba, N Korea unite in rejecting "unilateral and arbitrary" US pressure

https://www.rt.com/news/410698-cuba-north-korea-coercive-us/

- North Korea punished for helping to liberate Africa

https://journal-neo.org/2016/03/18/north-korea-punished-for-helping-to-liberate-africa/

- Juche in the United States: The Black Panther Party's relations with North Korea, 1969-1971

https://web.archive.org/web/20170811183704/apjjf.org/2015/13/12/Benjamin-Young/4303.html

- How Black Panthers turned to North Korea in fight against US imperialism

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/19/black-panthers-north-korea-us-imperialism

Peace process

- PSL orientation on the potential of Trump-DPRK negotiations

https://www.liberationnews.org/psl-orientation-on-the-potential-of-trump-dprk-negotiations/

- Seoul failed to convince USFK chief on joint railway [The U.S.A is holding up the reunification process - indirectly proving that South Korea is not independent!]

http://m.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20180831000476

- Beyond headlines: here's North Korea's actual statement on Trump meeting

https://www.liberationnews.org/beyond-headlines-heres-north-koreas-actual-statement-trump-meeting/

- Seoul offers Kim Jong-un grand bargain to link North and South Korean economies with China

http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article/2145052/seoul-offers-kim-jong-un-grand-bargain-link-north-and

- South Korean trust in North Korea jumps after feel-good summit

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-southkorea/north-korea-to-align-with-souths-time-zone-as-first-practical-step-toward-reconciliation-idUSKBN1I1040

- Diplomacy with North Korea has worked before and can work again

https://www.thenation.com/article/diplomacy-with-north-korea-has-worked-before-and-can-work-again/

- Loud & Clear: War or Peace? (1st hour) discussing peace talks - good listen

https://sputniknews.com/radio_loud_and_clear/201803101062385482-war-or-peace-trump-accepts-dprks-invitation-to-meet-maybe/

- Peace as armageddon (excellent article discussing the media reaction to peace talks)

http://www.zoominkorea.org/peace-as-armageddon/

- Kim Jong Un's meeting with South Korean officials (interesting read!)

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-southkorea-hospit/over-hotpot-and-soju-north-koreas-kim-jong-un-joked-about-himself-south-korea-officials-idUSKCN1GL0JE

- PSL statement on the potential for Trump-DPRK negotiations (very good article)

https://www.liberationnews.org/psl-orientation-on-the-potential-of-trump-dprk-negotiations/

- Kim Jong-un reaches 'satisfactory agreement' with South Korean delegation

https://www.rt.com/news/420558-satisfactory-agreement-kim-korea-talks/

- South Korea sending special envoy to North Korea, President Moon tells Trump

http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/2135343/south-korea-sending-special-envoy-north-korea-president-moon-jae-tells

- China-South Korea relations: a delicate balance

https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/china-south-korea-relations-a-delicate-detente/

- Inter-Korea talks score gold at Olympics

https://www.mintpressnews.com/inter-korea-talks-score-gold-olympics-us-autopilot-diplomacy-wipes/237776/

- Koreas agree to hold high-level talks next week (5/1/2018)

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20180105000329#cb

- The South tells US that war is not on the table

https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/As-North-Korea-Sentences-Trump-to-Death-the-South-Tells-US-War-Not-On-the-Table-20171115-0038.html

- Very good analysis of the current dialogue between RoK and DPRK (January 2018)

http://www.38north.org/2018/01/rcarlinjwit010318/

- Why China and Russia continue to pass UN sanctions resolutions against North Korea

https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryWatch.Analysis/posts/1897112317275463

- RUSSIA IS AIDING NORTH KOREA WITH OIL IMPORTS, IGNORING U.S. EFFORTS TO ISOLATE KIM JONG UN: REPORT

http://www.newsweek.com/russia-north-korea-oil-imports-kim-jong-un-united-states-736144

- China and Russia train for war with U.S. if Trump invades North Korea

http://www.newsweek.com/china-could-fight-us-war-north-korea-breaks-out-751779

- South Korea president suggests joint drills with U.S. could be suspended

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/20/south-korea-president-suggests-joint-drills-with-us-could-be-suspended

https://www.rt.com/news/410698-cuba-north-korea-coercive-us/

- China should stop regime change in North Korea: state media

https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/China-Should-Stop-Regime-Change-in-North-Korea-State-Media-20170811-0005.html

- China's Communist Party says it is still talking to North Korean side

https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/10/21/asia-pacific/chinas-communist-party-says-still-talking-north-korean-side/#.Wf5QAFu0OUI

- China says it will defend North Korea in event of US invasion

http://theduran.com/china-says-will-defend-north-korea-in-event-of-us-invasion/

- China expresses support for Moscow's position on NK crisis settlement

https://sputniknews.com/world/201710231058474028-china-russia-north-korea/

- Russia's role in the North Korea conundrum: part of the problem or part of the solution?

https://www.fpri.org/article/2016/03/russias-role-in-the-north-korea-conundrum-part-of-the-problem-or-part-of-the-solution/

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https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/13/world/asia/china-north-korea-trade-coal-nuclear.html

- China says it will defend North Korea in event of US invasion

http://theduran.com/china-says-will-defend-north-korea-in-event-of-us-invasion/

- Xi: China, ROK to enhance communication on promoting peace

https://www.chinadailyasia.com/articles/52/116/171/1513263969724.html

- China should stop regime change in North Korea: state media

https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/China-Should-Stop-Regime-Change-in-North-Korea-State-Media-20170811-0005.html

- Russia and China join forces in anti-missile defense drill

http://www.newsweek.com/russia-and-china-join-forces-anti-missile-defense-drill-beijing-750711

- China and Russia train for war with U.S. if Trump invades North Korea

http://www.newsweek.com/china-could-fight-us-war-north-korea-breaks-out-751779

- South Korea president suggests joint drills with US could be suspended

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/20/south-korea-president-suggests-joint-drills-with-us-could-be-suspended

- Washington should switch from threats to dialogue on North Korea - Chinese envoy to US

https://www.rt.com/news/403522-china-us-threats-pyongyang/

The Propaganda War

- DPRK: Eyewitness Experience

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zX-4oYFxcr0

- Inside America's meddling machine: the US funded group that interferes in elections around the globe (MUST WATCH)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzIJ25ob1aA

- Understanding what North Korea has been through (great article by Jay Tharappel)

https://www.theorientaldespot.com/article/understandingnorthkorea

Human Rights

- Debunking Human Rights Watch's claims on domestic/sexual violence

https://twitter.com/korcounterprop/status/1058043009839710208?fbclid=IwAR2IS8Zt9nH7O3WtEaRvBGkIqIookuKLqfx26A6_8wzzU96BBp09X_gUQSs

- The Problematic Evidence Base of the UN Human Rights Council (excellent paper)

http://criticalasianstudies.org/issues/vol46/no1/crimes-against-humanity.html
https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes_against_humanity_Unpacking_the_North_Korean_Human_Rights_Debate

- Human Rights Watch report an attempt to undermine peace in Korea (pt1)

https://www.spreaker.com/user/radiosputnik/human-rights-watch-report-an-attempt-to-

- What's the truth behind new Human Rights Watch report on North Korea? (pt2)

https://www.spreaker.com/user/radiosputnik/what-s-the-truth-behind-new-human-rights

- UN report on North Korea could be about the United States or South Korea

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2014/02/18/un-report-on-north-korea-could-be-about-the-united-states-or-south-korea/

- Hazel Smith - Crimes Against Humanity? Unpacking the North Korean Human Rights Debate - a highly recommended paper

http://criticalasianstudies.org/issues/vol46/no1/crimes-against-humanity.html
https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes_against_humanity_Unpacking_the_North_Korean_Human_Rights_Debate

- UN report on human rights in DPRK is a propaganda tool

https://redyouth.org/2014/02/19/un-report-attack-on-socialist-korea-china/

Debunking the dominant narrative

- Why everything you think you know about North Korea is wrong

https://sputniknews.com/analysis/201803021062166494-north-korea-loretta-napoleoni/

- North Korea is more rational than you think: an interview with Bruce Cumings

https://mronline.org/2018/02/12/north-korea-is-more-rational-than-you-think-an-interview-with-bruce-cumings/

- Why Westerners keep returning to North Korea (article mentions that Westerner can access the internet!)

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-09/why-westerners-keep-returning-to-north-korea/9231908

- Defectors think most North Koreans approve of Kim Jong-Un

http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/08/30/217186480/defectors-think-most-north-koreans-approve-of-kim-jong-un

- South Korea good, North Korea bad? Not a very useful outlook

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jul/19/korean-conflict-time-nuanced-view

- Rethinking the North Korean "collapse narrative": the most demonized country worldwide

https://www.globalresearch.ca/rethinking-the-north-korean-collapse-narrative-the-most-demonized-country-worldwide/5410636

- North Korea, The UN, and war propaganda

https://journal-neo.org/2014/11/30/north-korea-the-un-and-war-propaganda-2/

- US image of North Korea does not conform with reality - RT America

https://www.facebook.com/RTAmerica/videos/10154387760731366/

SEN. COATS: "Well, he's (Kim Jong-un) demonstrated behavior publicly that really raises some questions about who he is and how he thinks and how he acts, what his behavior is, but our assessment has come -- has pretty much resulted in the fact that while he's a very unusual type of person, he's not crazy. And there is some rationale backing his actions which are survival, survival for his regime, survival for his country, and he has watched I think what has happened around the world relative to nations that possess nuclear capabilities and the leverage they have and seen that having the nuclear card in your pocket results in a lot of deterrence capability. The lessons that we learned out of Libya giving up its nukes and Ukraine giving up its nukes is unfortunately if you had nukes, never give them up. If you don't have them, get them."

- US Director of National Intelligence on Kim Jong-Un:

- Senior CIA official: Kim Jong-Un is "very rational"

https://sputniknews.com/military/201710051057970924-cia-north-korea-rational/

- How and why the western media gets North Korea's economy wrong

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2014/12/30/how-and-why-the-western-news-media-get-north-koreas-economy-wrong/

- UN report on North Korea could be about the United States or South Korea

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2014/02/18/un-report-on-north-korea-could-be-about-the-united-states-or-south-korea/

- North Korea is not an existential threat - but many people benefit by saying it is

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_z_pG7x8T0

Assorted Anti-DPRK propaganda

- 3 big lies about North Korea

http://www.answercoalition.org/3_big_lies_about_north_korea

- South Korea "humbly accepts" there is no proof border park cash funded North's weapons

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles/south-korea-humbly-accepts-there-is-no-proof-border-park-cash-funded-norths-weapons-idUSKBN1EM064

- If the BBC reported on the royal family like it did on North Korea

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2015/10/21/if-the-bbc-reported-on-the-royal-family-like-it-did-on-north-korea/

- Serbian Coach reveals how mainstream media 'kills' NK athletes

https://sputniknews.com/analysis/201709161057447560-north-korea-mainstream-media-bias/

- Western DPRK Propaganda: The worst, occasionally hilarious, and often racist, lies

https://anti-imperialism.org/2014/08/14/western-dprk-propaganda-the-worst-occasionally-hilarious-and-often-racist-lies/

- Crazy Anti-North Korean propaganda

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQkgP6z8XW4

- Songbullshit - The Evidence that Every Accusation against the DPRK in Robert Collins' and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea's "Marked for Life: Songbun – North Korea's Social Classification System" is False

https://www.rhizzone.net/articles/songbullshit/

- North Korean Propaganda: A Cavalcade of Comedy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49SO4vn4SNI

- The propaganda war against North Korea

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f22QGIWXGw

- The Haircut - A North Korean adventure

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BO83Ig-E8E

- Interview with makers of The Haircut

https://www.patreon.com/posts/interview-with-14579589

- A lot of what you know about North Korea is racist nonsense

https://medium.com/defiant/a-lot-of-what-you-know-about-north-korea-is-racist-nonsense-a625256b51cc

- Family declines autopsy for US student released by North Korea

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-northkorea-detainee-idUSKBN19B25Z

- Amnesty International botches blame for North Korea's crumbling healthcare

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/07/20/amnesty-international-botches-blame-for-north-korea%E2%80%99s-crumbling-healthcare/

- Dispelling myths about North Korea

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1241&v=HNf3wM0feb8

- Why is North Korea so crazy?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS9Zti5oKrI&feature=youtu.be

- TYT dumbasses on the DPRK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yUtU-xKPms

- WHO blasts Amnesty for N. Korea health report - CBS news

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/who-blasts-amnesty-for-n-korea-health-report/

- Why is North Korea so crazy?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS9Zti5oKrI&feature=youtu.be

- "Forbidden photos taken inside Kim Kong-Un's secretive state" - commentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn2IrI-rfiE

- "27 smuggled pictures North Korea doesn't want you to see" - commentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD9MlIQ0Gpw

- Excerpt from "The Propaganda Game"

https://www.facebook.com/DankDPRKMemes/videos/417962668575523/

- US imperialist 'human rights' campaigns - who are they fooling?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0p6EH5TEOU

- Human rights: DPRK vs USA

http://www.cpgb-ml.org/index.php?secName=proletarian&subName=display&art=1070

- South Korea and the art of collaboration: Raw war propaganda against the DPRK

https://www.globalresearch.ca/south-korea-and-the-art-of-collaboration-raw-war-propaganda-against-the-dprk/5512043

- What if North Korea is not crazy? - CNN

https://www.facebook.com/cnn/videos/10157029124596509/

- Otto Warmbier's body showed no signs of torture - coroner

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-41423729

- Warmbier family decline autopsy for US student released by North Korea

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-northkorea-detainee/family-declines-autopsy-for-u-s-student-released-by-north-korea-idUSKBN19B25Z

- Myths and Misconceptions about North Korea | DEBUNKED
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhaHiht50AA
- The North Korean purge that didn't happen
https://blogs.wsj.com/korearealtime/2014/03/07/the-north-korean-purge-that-didnt-happen/?mod=WSJBlog&fref=gc
- 5 lies by Steve Shives
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_mjOfYxwzM
- DPRK Never Removed Marxism From The Constitution
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfm_K6eil6Y
- Half of North Koreans Have Guns and Artillery
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXpSap6FhR4
- 'Show us the evidence': N. Korea invites US to prove Pyongyang's WannaCry connection
https://www.rt.com/usa/414241-north-korean-wannacry-attack/

- Does the DPRK kidnap Japanese people?

  Japan wants the Koreas to stop bringing up the sexual enslavement of tens of thousands of Korean women by the Imperial Japanese Army, saying that it's in the past and the Koreans are just being petty.

  Meanwhile Japan can't manage to shut up, not for one single second, about a small handful of so-called "Japanese abductees taken to North Korea", even though this was resolved well over a decade ago and there's no evidence that any "kidnapped" Japanese citizens remain in the DPRK. In any case, there's no evidence that any Japanese person was mistreated in the DPRK, unlike the Japanese army's thousands of Korean sex slaves.

  This whole thing was resolved quite a long time ago when Japan's then-PM Koizumi met Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang and they discussed the issue. Japanese people in the DPRK returned home to Japan and that should have been the end of it. But right-wingers in Japan have never, ever stopped howling about it, because it's emotionally manipulative propaganda that wins them votes that they can use for their remilitarization agenda, a large part of which depends on portraying the DPRK as a threat to the people of Japan.

  One can say that the DPRK has made mistakes in its relations with Japan, and Kim Jong Il himself apologized for such mistakes, but from the DPRK's perspective, the balance of injustice remains heavily on the side of Japan, which colonized, exploited, raped and tortured the people of Korea for decades. And unlike the DPRK, Japan has refused to even apologize for its actions, let alone to pay reparations. Not only were thousands of Korean women made into sex slaves for the Japanese army, but also, thousands of Korean workers were taken to Japan as slaves to do hard labor for the profits of Japanese industrialists. This is the cause of a lot of bad blood between Korea and Japan. Japan would rather forget this and pretend it didn't happen, but Koreans haven't forgotten it and they're not going to. From the DPRK's perspective, Japan owes Korea a heavy debt that it has always refused to pay.

  One of the things the Japanese media and right-wing politicians have been doing is pretending that there are Japanese "abductees" in the DPRK to this day. They have no evidence for this at all. There was one case where there was a man who was claimed to have been kidnapped to the DPRK, and then he was found somewhere else in Japan; he had simply ditched his family and gone to live somewhere else. Politicians had baselessly claimed that he was in the DPRK. Often when there's a missing-person case in Japan, especially if it's somewhere on the coast of the Sea of Japan, it will be claimed that the DPRK has been kidnapping people. It's convenient for Japan to do this not only for political reasons of feeding a right-wing nationalist agenda, but also to sweep the problem of crime in Japan under the rug. There's no room for crime in the "beautiful Japan" conjured up by the LDP's propaganda; any crime must be the doing of foreigners, especially Koreans and Chinese. Women who are kidnapped and raped and murdered in Japan by Japanese citizens aren't politically convenient, in fact they're quite inconvenient, and are ignored; unless what happened to them can be blamed on foreigners, particularly Koreans or Chinese.

Eyewitness accounts and travel logs

- A look at life in North Korea
http://avax.news/fact/A_Look_at_Life_in_North_Korea_03-10-2017.html
- In North Korea: First eye-witness report by Anna Louise-Strong (1949)
https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/strong-anna-louise/1949/in-north-korea/
- My trip to North Korea: 13 misconceptions corrected
https://www.liberationnews.org/my-trip-to-north-korea-13-misconceptions-corrected/
- Eyewitness North Korea: An American's journey to the DPRK before the travel ban
http://www.hamptoninstitution.org/eyewitness-north-korea.html#.WbWO17KGOUn
- An American tourist in North Korea: Exploring the DPRK and running the Pyongyang Marathon
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkN42srizJo
- What we saw in North Korea goes against everything western media wants us to believe - American Herald Tribune
https://ahtribune.com/world/asia-pacific/1883-north-korea-washington.html
- Adelaide student studying in Pyongyang
https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/37230864/adelaide-student-studying-in-pyongyang-north-korea/
- Serbian tourists visit DPRK
https://sputniknews.com/asia/201709121057330168-serbia-tourists-visit/
- Surfing in North Korea
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cO4M1U_2bmk
- Iranian Muslims in NK
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLw1v-xQA7I
- The Greek who lived in North Korea
http://greece.greekreporter.com/2017/10/14/exclusive-the-greek-who-lived-in-north-korea-tells-her-story/
- Playlist of short clips taken in DPRK
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUoQioU65Mk&list=PLqtiZC-4QZC1gws0TTZSW8SPVSImW2Oos&index=1
- Tourist who took camera inside North Korea shocked at seemingly ordinary lives of citizens
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2638213/Tourist-took-camera-inside-North-Korea-expected-really-really-sad-people-shocked-seemingly-ordinary-lives-citizens.html
- Gay travellers in DPRK
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/business/how-to-plan-a-safe-trip-for-gay-and-transgender-travelers.html
- North Korea in the eyes of Turkey's Socialists
https://medium.com/@bcloud__/north-korea-in-the-eyes-of-turkey-s-socialist-s-c673510e64db
- Visit to the DPRK by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
https://marxistleninist.wordpress.com/2008/11/30/cpn-maoist-on-juche-in-dprk/
- Marcel Cartier: a trip to North Korea
http://dekusada.blogspot.hk/2014/04/by-marcel-cartier-i-had-unique.html

Life inside Korea

- North Korea's Economy of Self-Reliance
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70QK9VrGQHQ
- Ian Goodrum: how the DPRK's economy operates at the enterprise/firm level
https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1006197035588964352.html
- The social and economic achievements of North Korea
https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-social-and-economic-achievements-of-north-korea/5594234
- Real DPRK economic data by Jason Unruhe
https://youtu.be/AM0faLccYuQ
- Here's what it's like inside a North Korean grocery store
http://uk.businessinsider.com/north-korea-trump-store-food-2017-5?r=US&IR=T
- Why Pyongyang is using gleaming skyscrapers to show 'potential of socialist Korea'

http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/cbc-north-korea-ryomyong-street-opening-1.4069982

- No homeless in Pyongyang, says defector

https://www.upi.com/%E2%80%A6/North-Korean-defector-s%E2%80%A6/8801457150974/

- Pyongyang Lessons: North Korea from inside the classroom

https://www.amazon.com/Pyongyang-Lessons-North-Inside-Classroom/dp/148272975X

- Religion in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?

https://stalinsmoustache.org/2015/06/16/religion-in-the-democratic-peoples-republic-of-korea/

- The Churches of Pyongyang

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qvpHD2M3WM

- Korean Orthodox wedding

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUqGMcMyZgs

- Yes, DPRKoreans have smartphones!

https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/north-korean-smartphone-jindallae-3/

- North Korean architecture

https://io9.gizmodo.com/north-koreas-modern-architecture-an-alternate-universe-1613846991

- North Korea that neither Trump nor western media wants the world to see

http://www.mintpressnews.com/north-korea-neither-trump-nor-western-media-wants-world-see/

- Under the care of the state

http://exploredprk.com/articles/under-the-state-care/

- Pyongyang Sci-Tech centre

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_d39JvG7u8

- Sci-Tech complex in Pyongyang

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CPqTpny_vo

- Day of persons with disabilities marked

http://exploredprk.com/news/day-of-persons-with-disabilities-marked/

- Members of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled giving performance

http://exploredprk.com/news/disabled-people-gave-performance/

- Photographer claims North Korea worth visiting (beautiful photography)

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4595654/Photographer-claims-North-Korea-worth-visiting.html

- 360 Panoramic views in the DPRK

https://www.dprk360.com/360/index.html

- Incredible album full of images taken around the DPRK

https://imgur.com/gallery/WU4Mb

- Inside the North Korean cocoon (short video montage filmed in DPRK)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCS-W9MFZKQ

- Very large album of pictures taken inside the DPRK

https://www.facebook.com/pg/dprk360/photos/?tab=album&album_id=214475598676276

- Marcel Cartier trip to North Korea: photos

https://dekusada.blogspot.hk/2014/05/marcel-cartier-north-korea-trip-photos.html

- Eva Bartlett trip to DPRK

https://www.facebook.com/EvaBoBeeva/media_set?set=a.1664413886901932.1073741908.100000000104830&type=3&pnref=lhc

- Derek Ford's pictures of his travels in DPRK on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/ford.derek/media_set?set=a.938928138735.1073741830.41400390

- Inside the secretive world of North Korea's military (ignore the ridiculous commentary; if taking photos of soldiers is 'forbidden' why are soldiers posing for the photographer and how was he able to get them out of the country?)

http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/inside-secretive-world-north-koreas-10210609

- Living With Absences: A Foreigner's Sojourn in Pyongyang by Hazel Smith (fascinating paper from 2001/2002, so very dated in regards to how open the country is, but a good read nonetheless)

https://www.academia.edu/12701480/Living_with_Absences_A_Foreigners_Sojourn_in_Pyongyang

Defectors

- Loyal Citizens of Pyongyang in Seoul (excellent documentary!)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkUMZS-ZegM

- North Korea defector returns home calling South 'capitalist hell'

https://www.dw.com/en/north-korea-defector-returns-home-calling-south-capitalist-hell/a-39745918

- North Korean waitress "defectors": kidnapped by South Korea's National Intelligence Service

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/11/world/asia/north-korea-waitresses-defections.html

- Forever strangers: the North Korean defectors who want to go back

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/26/forever-strangers-the-north-korean-defectors-who-want-to-go-back

- After fleeing North Korea, some defectors want to go back to life under Kim Jong Un

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-15/north-korean-defectors-returning-to-the-hermit-kingdom/9254654

- North Korea: Defectors and their skeptics

https://thediplomat.com/2014/10/north-korea-defectors-and-their-skeptics/

- Why do North Korean defector testimonies so often fall apart?

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/13/why-do-north-korean-defector-testimonies-so-often-fall-apart

- Seoul to quadruple reward fee for North Korean defectors - CNN

http://edition.cnn.com/2017/03/05/asia/south-korea-reward-defectors/

- Korea's hidden problem: suicidal defectors

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-34710403

- Defector wants to return to North Korea - CNN

http://edition.cnn.com/2015/09/23/asia/north-south-korea-defector-family/index.html

- Hoping to Lure High-Level Defectors, South Korea Increases Rewards

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/05/world/asia/hoping-to-lure-high-level-defectors-south-korea-increases-rewards.html

- South Korea bans North Korean defector from repatriation - UPI.com

http://www.upi.com/%E2%80%A6/Seoul-rejects-North-Kor%E2%80%A6/7441442934149/

- North Korean Defector, 'Treated Like Dirt' in South, Fights to Return

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/05/world/asia/north-korea-defector-south-korea.html

- The strange tale of Yeonmi Park

https://thediplomat.com/2014/12/the-strange-tale-of-yeonmi-park/

- Defectors think most North Koreans approve of Kim Jong-Un

http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/08/30/217186480/defectors-think-most-north-koreans-approve-of-kim-jong-un

- Seoul bans North Korean defector from repatriation

https://www.upi.com/%E2%80%A6/Seoul-rejects-North-Kor%E2%80%A6/7441442934149/

- Why two North Korean defectors want to go back

https://www.nknews.org/2017/09/why-two-north-korean-defectors-want-to-go-back/

- Why do North Korean defectors keep changing their stories?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkegD7V9E6g

- Prominent North Korean defector recants parts of his story

https://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/world/asia/prominent-north-korean-defector-shin-dong-hyuk-recants-parts-of-his-story.html

- North Korean defector says she feels "trapped" in the South

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUMtDlusNUs&feature=youtu.be

- Why does this North Korean defector want to return home? (mixed short video from the BBC)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKYqtKZ_8eA

- South Korea shoots dead defector fleeing to the North

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/10312221/South-Korean-army-shoots-dead-defector.html

- South Korea shoots dead man swimming to the North

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-24105977

- Why South Korea is offering more money to North Korean defectors

http://www.newsweek.com/why-south-korea-offering-more-money-north-korean-defectors-564330

- North Korean defector interrupts UN Human Rights event, pleads to return home

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/12/14/north-korean-defector-interrupts-un-human-rights-event-plead/

The food situation in DPRK

- Between sanctions, drought and tensions: how bad is North Korea's food situation? (Nov 2017)

https://www.38north.org/2017/11/bksilberstein111417/

- Nutrition and Health in North Korea: What's New, What's Changed and Why It Matters (excellent paper by Hazel Smith)

https://www.academia.edu/25554321/Nutrition_and_Health_in_North_Korea_Whats_New_Whats_Changed_and_Why_It_Matters

- North Korea as the Wicked Witch of the East: Social Science as Fairytale (paper by Hazel Smith)

https://www.academia.edu/6130295/North_Korea_as_the_Wicked_Witch_of_the_East_Social_Science_as_Fairy_Tale

- Hunger in North Korea is devastating. And it's our fault.

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/17/opinion/weapons-north-korea-hunger.html?mtrref=www.facebook.com&assetType=opinion

- World Food Programme webpage for the DPRK

http://www1.wfp.org/countries/democratic-peoples-republic-korea

- Mission East page on DPRK

http://www.miseast.org/en/nkorea/food-insecurity-north-korea

- Korea's food situation: stable and improving (From the Council on Foreign Relations!)

https://www.cfr.org/blog/north-koreas-food-situation-stable-and-improving

- The Food Situation In North Korea (and other dprk myths)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3fdp00DgfI

- Real DPRK economic data by Jason Unruhe

https://youtu.be/AM0faLccYuQ

- The Problematic Evidence Base of the UN Human Rights Council (excellent paper)

http://criticalasianstudies.org/issues/vol46/no1/crimes-against-humanity.html
https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes_against_humanity_Unpacking_the_North_Korean_Human_Rights_Debate

"The problem is that the claims about food rights violations in the 2013 UNHCR report are not congruent with the statistical indicators given by UN agencies that have the most experience of working in North Korea. Despite emanating from within the UN system in which access to data on the DPRK is straightforward, the UNHRC reporting on food violations demonstrates a problematic securitization of evidence and analysis though a heavy reliance on prior assumptions and a filtering of information through those securitized assumptions. The UNHRC reporting, of which the February 2013 report is representative, is self-referential, factually inaccurate, and seems unaware of the reports from the UN agencies that have worked in the DPRK for many years. This is somewhat surprising, especially as the weight of the UN agency reporting contradicts the UNHCR claims on food violations.
The 2013 UNHRC report is self-referential in that it draws almost entirely from previous UNHCR reports and resolutions on North Korea and often uses the same wording, that is, the 2013 report cuts and pastes from previous UNHCR reports.26 The practice of extracting from older reports is standard in governmental or international organization reports, but this practice can be misleading when, as in the 2013 UNHCR report, claims are made with a sense of irrefutable certainty despite the absence of conventional substantiation. What is most striking about the UNHCR reporting on the DPRK is the almost complete absence of reference to relevant data from other UN agencies, donor governments, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), to the extent that the UNHRC reporting seems unaware of the existence of reports on the DPRK from within the UN system itself. 27 The 2013 UNHRC report references only one report from the specialist UN agencies: a March 2011 FAO/WFP/UNICEF report

on food insecurity in the DPRK. Unfortunately, the citations are third-hand and the material quoted in the UNHCR report is taken so much out of context that it distorts the findings of the original report and misleads the reader.
The 2011 FAO/WFP/UNICEF report does not argue for the exceptional severity of a food and health crisis in the DPRK. It does not argue that there are famine-like conditions prevailing in the population. It does not argue that the government is solely responsible for food insecurity in the country. It does not mention or argue that international protection (i.e., human rights) mandates are being abjured by the DPRK government. This last point is important as UN agencies have an obligation under their protection of human rights mandates to report potential crimes against humanity. The UNHCR reporting does not mention that UN specialist agencies have never identified DPRK government food and health policy in these terms.
The 2013 report to the Human Rights Council referred to "the severity of the food situation" in support of the report's claims that the government should be considered as violating the right to food. These claims contrast with those of the humanitarian agencies that reported in 2011—in the same and only report from the humanitarian agencies that the 2013 UNHCR report appears to cherry-pick quotes from—that the "nutrition situation…appears to be relatively stable."28 In 2012 WFP and UNICEF concurred with an assessment that improvements in acute malnutrition show that the "situation is not critical and does not suggest emergency operations" and that the "Global Chronic Malnutrition or Stunting… is considered as of 'medium' public health significance according to WHO
Standards." "

The Economy

Reforms

- Pyongyang officials go to study China reforms

http://mengnews.joins.com/view.aspx?aId=3048193

- North Koreans begin studying Chinese reforms as country takes steps towards openness

https://eurasiafuture.com/2018/11/11/north-koreans-begin-studying-chinese-reforms-as-country-takes-steps-towards-openness/

Sanctions

- Humanitarian groups suffering under North Korea sanctions

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/humanitarian-groups-suffering-under-north-korea-sanctions/article37617830/

- Korea, like Serbia, Iraq, Libya. But nuclear!

http://www.defenddemocracy.press/korea-like-serbia-iraq-libya-but-nuclear/

- Why do Russia and China not oppose sanctions on the DPRK more?

https://www.facebook.com/JLeftistArchive/photos/a.1922050888117037.1073741828.1921706061484853/1940582556263870/?type=3&permPage=1

- Chinese ships spotted selling oil to North Korea

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/12/26/2017122601156.html

- Chinese firm smuggles missile parts to North Korea

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/09/19/2017091900988.html?related_all

- North Korea calls latest UN sanctions 'an act of war'

https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2017/12/24/politics/north-korea-un-resolution-response/index.html

- North Korean response to UN sanctions

http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/world/north-korea-response-un-snctions-1.4464107

- Why China and Russia continue to pass UN sanctions resolutions against North Korea

https://www.facebook.com/ImperialMilitaryWatch.Analysis/posts/1897112317275463

- North Korea and the UN sanctions merry go-around

https://journal-neo.org/2017/09/17/north-korea-and-the-un-sanctions-merry-go-round/

- UN sanctions leave North Korean drug maker on life support

https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-n-sanctions-leave-north-korean-drug-maker-on-life-support-1512729000

- "Serious concern" about sanctions' impact on North Korea aid work: UN DPRK rep

https://www.nknews.org/2017/12/serious-concern-about-sanctions-impact-on-north-korea-aid-work-un-dprk-rep/?c=1512654806814

- Tokyo & Washington to limit North Korean access to oil

https://www.rt.com/business/401457-us-japan-north-korea-oil/

- DPRK doctor states that sanctions are putting childrens' lives at risk

https://www.facebook.com/PRESSTV/videos/1732744936767286/?hc_ref=ARQodwscBdMGd6gXmH8BvMVXHUExtsMHLKxbf3BJ54yyKv24ypUAUtQSp36-kBU0CwI

- Report: North Korea faces fertilizer shortage due to China coal sanctions

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/05/05/Report-North-Korea-faces-fertilizer-shortage-due-to-China-coal-sanctions/3391493997741/

- The economy of the DPRK: myth and reality

http://writetorebel.com/2017/03/28/the-economy-of-the-dprk-myth-and-reality/

- Genocide by sanctions: UN double standards pertaining to sanctions and their devestating impacts

https://www.globalresearch.ca/north-korea-un-double-standards-pertaining-to-sanctions-and-their-devastating-social-impacts/5364484

- US sanctions against the DPRK - a North Korean perspective

https://www.nknews.org/2017/08/new-u-s-sanctions-against-the-dprk-a-north-korean-perspective/

- US representatives pass harshest sanctions ever against North Korea

https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/US-Reps-Pass-Harshest-Sanctions-Ever-Against-North-Korea-20171025-0006.html

- Is the United states credible as a guarantor of international peace and security?

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2016/05/31/is-the-united-states-credible-as-a-guarantor-of-international-peace-and-security/

- Why UN sanctions against North Korea are wrong

https://gowans.wordpress.com/2016/03/06/why-un-sanctions-against-north-korea-are-wrong/

- It's just a sanction, bro!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stT-yhxFinA

- Report: 49 countries have been busting sanctions on North Korea

http://money.cnn.com/2017/12/06/news/north-korea-sanctions-countries-violation/index.html

- N Korea opens international trade fair amid new UN sanctions

https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2017/09/a99ececc3d3e-update1-n-korea-opens-international-trade-fair-amid-new-un-sanctions.html

Is the DPRK on the verge of collapse?

- North Korea's economic crisis: what crisis?

https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevehanke/2018/04/24/north-koreas-economic-crisis-what-crisis/#3d14bb37437a

- Understanding what North Korea has been through (great article by Jay Tharappel)

https://www.theorientaldespot.com/article/understandingnorthkorea

- Doom and gloom or economic boom: the myth of the North Korean economic collapse (excellent article, worth reading!)

https://apjjf.org/2014/12/18/Henri-Feron/4113/article.html

- North Korea 2016 economic growth at 17-year high despite sanctions: South Korea

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-economy-gdp/north-korea-2016-economic-growth-at-17-year-high-despite-sanctions-south-korea-idUSKBN1A607Z

- Byungjin in play? North Korea's top economic officials meet for first time since 2006
https://thediplomat.com/2016/09/byungjin-in-play-north-koreas-top-economic-officials-meet-for-first-time-since-2006/
- Is North Korea's Byungjin line on the US-China strategic agenda?
https://thediplomat.com/2015/06/is-north-koreas-byungjin-line-on-the-us-china-strategic-agenda/
- Pyongyang's construction boom: is North Korea beating sanctions?
http://www.38north.org/2017/07/hferon071817/
- The social and economic achievements of North Korea
https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-social-and-economic-achievements-of-north-korea/5594234

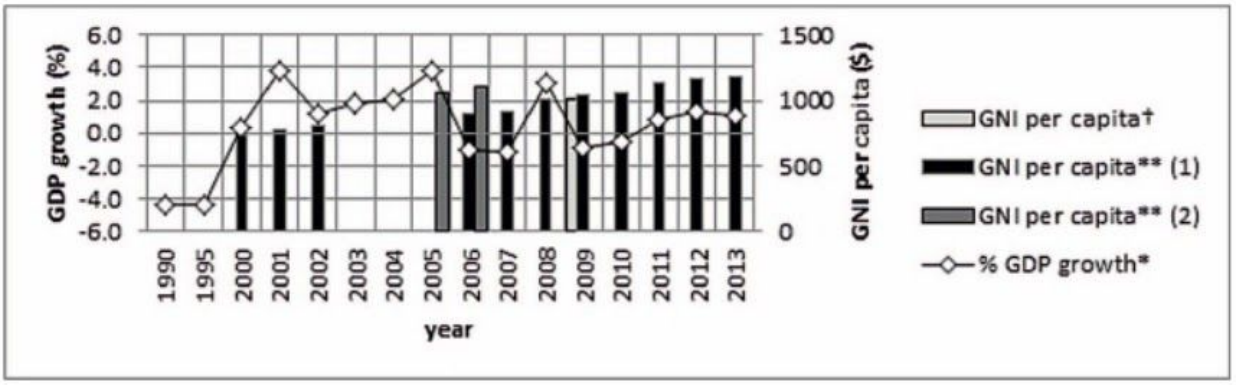


Figure 1. DPRK Economic Indicators

Sources: * Bank of Korea, "Gross Domestic Product indicators for the North Korean economy" (Annual report, 2013).[19]

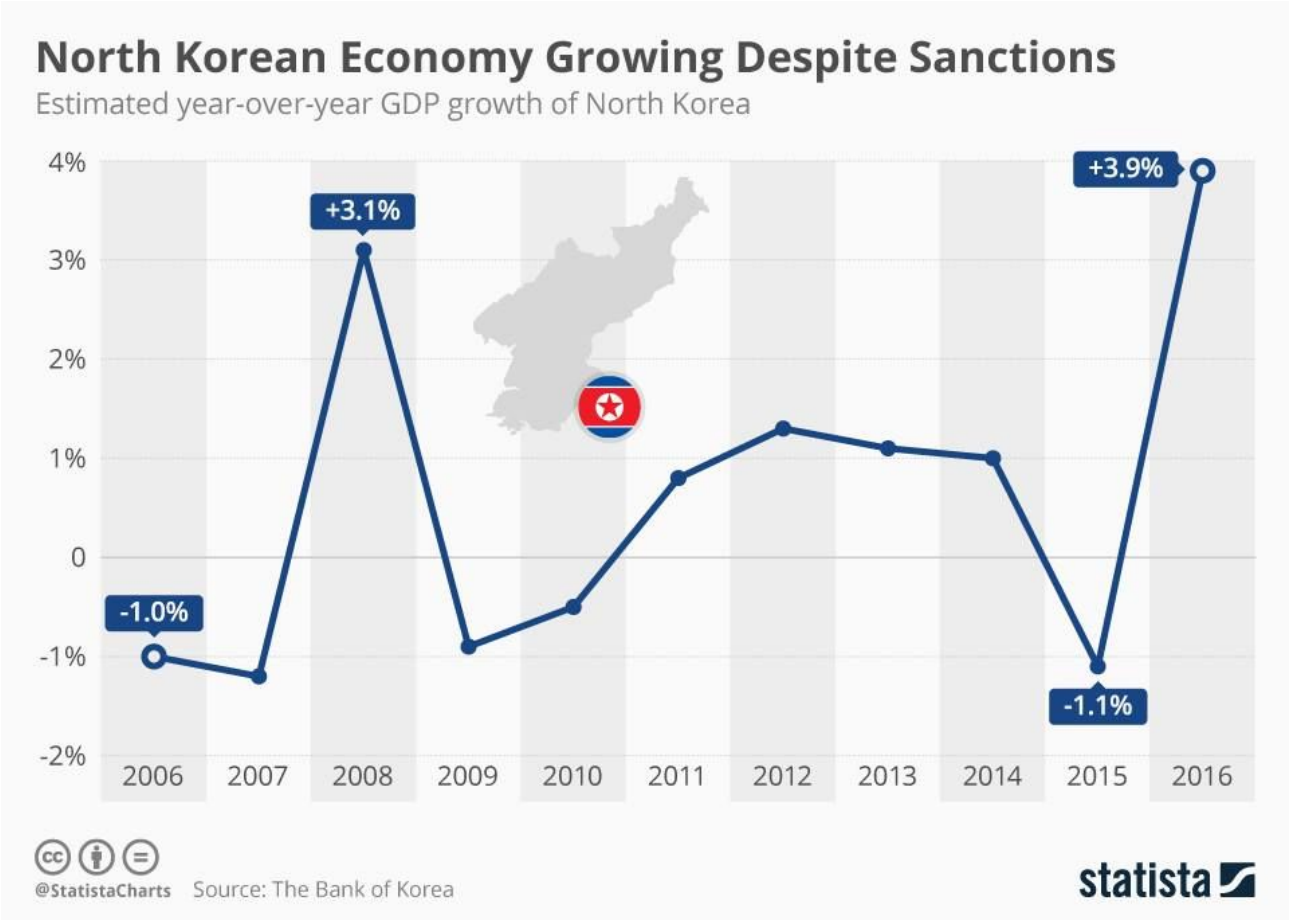
** Bank of Korea, "Gross Domestic Product Indicators for the North Korean Economy" (Annual reports, 2000–2013, except for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005).[20]

Key:

1: All figures in this row converted from Korean won at the exchange rate prevailing in August 2015.

2: All figures in this row given in the original documents in U.S.$.

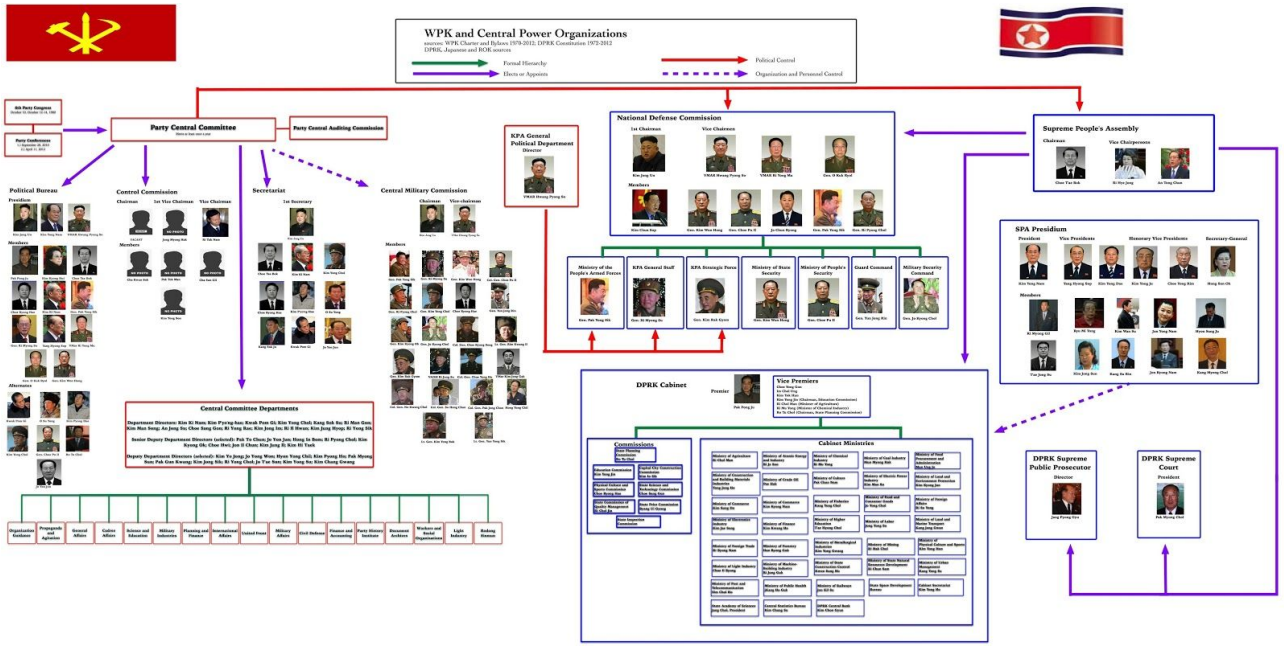
†The two different figures for 2009 GNI both come from the Bank of Korea annual reports. The higher figure is from the 2009 report and the lower figure from the 2010 report.



DPRK Society

Korean democracy

- Socialism and Democracy in the DPRK
http://writetorebel.com/2017/03/28/socialism-and-democracy-in-the-dprk/
- Elections in the “socialist motherland”: democracy in the DPRK
https://leftistcritic.wordpress.com/2017/03/08/elections-in-the-socialist-motherland-democracy-in-the-dprk/
- The Democratic Structure of the DPRK
http://www.lalkar.org/article/2654/the-democratic-structure-of-the-dprk
- Constitution of the DPRK
https://www.kfausa.org/dprk-constitution/
- North Korean report on 2014 elections in English (short)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4P0dMEH4RQ
- The parliamentary system of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
http://web.archive.org/web/20120303054935/http://www.asgp.info/Resources/Data/Documents/CJOZSZTEPVVOCWJVUPPZVWPAPUOFGF.pdf
- Defectors think most North Koreans approve of Kim Jong-Un
http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/08/30/217186480/defectors-think-most-north-koreans-approve-of-kim-jong-un
- A model of democratic and participatory socialism
https://www.reddit.com/r/communism/comments/2kwid3/a_model_of_democratic_and_participatory_socialist/



- ”When Kim Il-Sung helped to create the DPRK, he became President of the Republic: this meant he was in charge of the military, and was head of state. He also was head of government for some time, and was General Secretary of the Central Committee, the highest body of the Worker's Party of Korea.
  When he died, the position of President was abolished, as there was no longer a need for that position. So the position's responsibilities were split up into the head of state, which was the new position of President of the Presidium, and the Chairman of the National Defense Committee. As Kim Il-Sung had already divested himself from being head of government, this position was left separate, as the Premier of the Cabinet.
  Now, with separate positions, Kim Jong-Il can't have inherited all of them; in fact the only position he "inherited" was Chairman of the NDC, appointed by the Central Committee. He was then elected General Secretary, but not of the Central Committee, of the party instead. Wheras Kim Il-Sung was in charge of the CC, Kim Jong-Il was not. So he had less power in this position than his father did, and his father had multiple positions.
  When Kim Jong-Il died, the General Secretary of the WPK was retired as a position. His son then was elected to be First Secretary, an new position in which he shares more power than his father did. Kim Jong-un then became First Chairman of the NDC, as Chairman was abolished. Here again, he shares more power with people as compared to his father.
  In 2014, the NDC was abolished. It's replacement, the State Affairs Commission, is made up of the new head of military, Vice Marshall Hwang Pyong-so (Kim Jong-Un is marshall but has not been running the military in any capacity), the Premeir of the DPRK, and commission members. Weheras the NDC answered to Kim Jong-Il, and later cooperated wtih Kim Jong-Un, the SAC is not beholden to Kim Jong-Un's orders. It is a committee where every vote counts.
  In each successive step, power is diffused, with other members of the party having more of a say in how the DPRK is run. Right now the main responsibility Kim Jong-Un has is helping to run the country; notice i said help, and not run.
  This is completely antithetical to how monarchies work: in monarchies all power is consolidated and preserved, as are property relations. The reason Kim Jong-Un gets these prestigious positions that lack power is because of the respect the DPRK has for the Kim family and its contributions to liberating Korea. Kim Jong-Un may be the last of the Kim family to hold such positions, and if this does happen, there are already mechanisms in place to replace him. He doesn't have the power to roll back any of these reforms or give himself more power"

DPRK healthcare, education etc.

- "Something which most other developing countries would envy" : the DPRK's healthcare system
https://leftistcritic.wordpress.com/2017/06/28/something-which-most-other-developing-countries-would-envy-the-dprks-healthcare-system/
- The real story on North Korea and its healthcare
https://gowans.wordpress.com/2010/07/21/the-real-story-on-north-korea-and-its-healthcare/
- North Korea moving flood victims into new homes
https://www.upi.com/North-Korea-moving-flood-victims-into-new-homes/2691479344309/
- DPRK Healthcare, education and literacy
https://www.globalresearch.ca/north-korea-their-health-system-sucks-do-they-have-schools-and-hospitals-in-america-weve-got-medicare/5604293?platform=hootsuite
- North Korean medical care is good (Jason U video)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9L74NSUEew
- North Korea has plenty of doctors - WHO
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-korea-north/north-korea-has-plenty-of-doctors-who-idUSTRE63T3TW20100430

Juche

- Socialism is a science - Kim Jong-Il
http://www.korea-dpr.info/lib/106.pdf
- What is Juche?
https://www.reddit.com/r/communism101/comments/1y172i/what_exactly_is_juche/cfgmgjj/
- What is Juche? Parts 1 and 2
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGLeSmpYKMc&feature=youtu.be
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGWO79udI0U
- Juche Idea: Answers to Hundred Questions
https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B8E-ucthI07ic19CbUxuVDRmSEU/view
- Juche in the United States
https://www.facebook.com/JsBookmarkGulag/posts/1928584870796972?hc_location=ufi

Is DPR Korea socialist?

- "Chapter 2: What is a Socialist Society", *Is the Red Flag Flying? The Political Economy of the Soviet Union* by Albert Szymanski, pages 13-35.
https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/ncm-6/red-flag.pdf
- Korea resilient! Socialism in Democratic Korea
https://return2source.wordpress.com/2012/01/17/korea-resilient-socialism-in-democratic-korea/
- Is the DPRK on a socialist road or is it on a capitalist road?
https://www.reddit.com/r/communism101/comments/1ygskq/is_the_dprk_socialist/cfklacu/
- Socialist Korea: a case study in the strategy of economic development by Brun and Hersh
http://gen.lib.rus.ec/book/index.php?md5=6b0447bc14808161362b828aee0a284a

What is life like in South Korea?

- Young South Koreans call their country 'hell' and look for ways out - Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/young-south-koreans-call-their-country-hell-and-look-for-ways-out/2016/01/30/34737c06-b967-11e5-85cd-5ad59bc19432_story.html?sw_bypass=true&utm_term=.fe3f678cc7ad

- Why young South Koreans struggle to be happy

http://www.intheforefront.org/why-young-south-koreans-struggle-to-be-happy-the-ominous-intersections-of-traditional-culture-and-modern-development/

- US military base in South Korea mired in corruption scandal

https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/12/04/u-s-military-base-south-korea-mired-corruption-scandal/919333001/

- Dozens arrested as South Korean military conducts 'gay witch-hunt'

http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/11/asia/south-korea-lgbt-military/index.html

- South Korea court orders party with “Pro North Korea” views to be disbanded

http://www.dw.com/en/south-korea-court-orders-party-with-pro-north-korea-views-be-disbanded/a-18140824

- The spy who came in from the North

https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/the-spy-who-came-in-from-the-north/ar-AAsm5FS

Recommended books and other sources

- Korea: Division, Reunification, and U.S. Foreign Policy

https://monthlyreview.org/product/korea/

- Socialist Korea

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4072709-socialist-korea

- This Must Be the Place: How the U.S. Waged Germ Warfare in the Korean War and Denied It Ever Since

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1934733768/

- In North Korea: first eye-witness report

https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/strong-anna-louise/1949/in-north-korea/index.htm

- North Korean Journey: The Revolution Against Colonialism, 1975 (scanned book)

https://ia601201.us.archive.org/11/items/NorthKoreanJourney/North%20Korean%20Journey.pdf

- Modern Korea - The Socialist North, Revolutionary Perspectives in the South, and Unification, 1970 (scanned book)
- https://ia801205.us.archive.org/33/items/ModernKoreaKimByongSik/Modern%20Korea%20Kim%20Byong%20Sik.pdf
- Revolution and Socialist Construction in Korea - Selected Writings of Kim Il Sung

https://archive.org/details/RevolutionSocialistConstructionKorea

- For the Independent, Peaceful Reunification of Korea by Kim Il-Sung (scanned book)

https://archive.org/details/ForTheIndependentPeacefulReunificationOfKorea

- North Korea: The Struggle Against American Power by Tim Beal (excellent book!)

http://libgen.io/book/index.php?md5=94A5D82DAE9E30CD65FAF8C0E7EE5A9B

- Again Korea by Wilfred Burchett

http://www.friend.com.kp/data/201507/0116.frd.pdf

- Archive of DPRK-related material on Banned Thought

http://bannedthought.net/Korea-DPRK/index.htm

- Patriots, Traitors and Empires: The Story of Korea’s Struggle for Freedom by Stephen Gowans (MUST read!)

https://www.barakabooks.com/catalogue/patriots-traitors-and-empires/
http://libgen.io/book/index.php?md5=6D0F058EBBE237791F3E98F54BD7F8BC

DPRK related films

- Four Seasons in Pyongyang (1994)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dDqqZTq1vQ

- Our Socialist Country (1992)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1-2dju0cNM

- They Choose China (2005)

https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/they-chose-china/

- An African-Americans journal inside North Korea (1994)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTi5Ma1F7zM

- An American tourist in North Korea: Exploring the DPRK and running the Pyongyang Marathon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkN42srizJo

- The Haircut - A North Korean adventure

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BO83Ig-E8E

Academic work on the DPRK

- Reframing North Korean Human Rights by Christine Hong

https://sci-hub.tw/10.1080/14672715.2013.851154

- The Mirror of North Korean Human Rights by Christine Hong

https://sci-hub.tw/10.1080/14672715.2013.851152

- Hazel Smith - Crimes Against Humanity? Unpacking the North Korean Human Rights Debate - a highly recommended paper

http://sci-hub.tw/https://doi.org/10.1080/14672715.2014.863581?fbclid=IwAR2G0PfgB71uMMUACaeJg6zVOPJS5U0LRP_elT-oiKqrWKS3SvSrTfNvNQU

https://www.academia.edu/6296645/Crimes_against_humanity_Unpacking_the_North_Korean_Human_Rights_Debate

- Nutrition and Health in North Korea: What's New, What's Changed and Why It Matters (excellent paper by Hazel Smith)

https://www.academia.edu/25554321/Nutrition_and_Health_in_North_Korea_Whats_New_Whats_Changed_and_Why_It_Matters

- North Korea as the Wicked Witch of the East: Social Science as Fairytale (paper by Hazel Smith)

https://www.academia.edu/6130295/North_Korea_as_the_Wicked_Witch_of_the_East_Social_Science_as_Fairy_Tale